37. **(Original)** An apparatus for automatically processing
2 and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus
comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field
data that has been collected; and

6 a data repository connectable to said processing computer
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,

8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

a plurality of reference networks;

10 a geographic information system having a plurality of
asset layers;

12 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
observation types; and

14 a plurality of pre-defined associations between each
of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary

16 observation types, wherein said data repository is
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined

18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

converts each of said plurality of field data

22 into an appropriate one of said primary observation
types;

24 correlates each of said converted primary

observation types of each of said plurality of field

26 data to an appropriate one of said plurality of

reference networks and an appropriate one of said

28 plurality of asset layers; and

updates said appropriate one of said plurality of

30 asset layers with each of said converted primary

observation types of each of said plurality of field data.

37. (**After Examiner's Amendment**) An apparatus for

2 automatically processing and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field

data that has been collected; and

6 ~~a~~ data repository connectable to said processing computer

for receiving processing results of said processing computer,

8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

a plurality of reference networks;

10 a geographic information system having a plurality of

asset layers;

12 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary

observation types; and

14 a plurality of pre-defined associations between each

of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary

16 observation types, wherein said data repository is

configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined

18   instances of primary observation types and said plurality
of pre-defined associations;

20   wherein said processing computer,

            converts each of said plurality of field data

22   into an appropriate one of said primary observation
types;

24   correlates each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field

26   data to an appropriate one of said plurality of
reference networks and an appropriate one of said

28   plurality of asset layers; and

~~updates said appropriate one of said plurality of~~

30   ~~asset layers with each of said converted primary~~

~~observation types of each of said plurality of field data~~

32   <u>wherein said collecting of field data further comprises:</u>

        <u>capturing free speech stating verbal observations</u>

34   <u>containing voice data;</u>

        <u>capturing location data contemporaneously with each of</u>

36   <u>said verbal observations;</u>

        <u>time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a</u>

38   <u>raw verbal observation; and</u>

        <u>time-stamping said captured location data</u>.

    37.   **(Applicant's Version)** An apparatus for automatically

2 processing and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus
comprising:

4   a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field data that has been collected; and

6   a data repository connectable to said processing computer for receiving processing results of said processing computer,

8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

      a plurality of reference networks;

10   a geographic information system having a plurality of asset layers;

12   a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary observation types; and

14   a plurality of pre-defined associations between each of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary

16 observation types, wherein said data repository is configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined

18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

      converts each of said plurality of field data

22 into an appropriate one of said primary observation types;

24   correlates each of said converted primary observation types of each of said plurality of field

26 data to an appropriate one of said plurality of reference networks and an appropriate one of said

28 plurality of asset layers; and

5

updates said appropriate one of said plurality of

30   asset layers with each of said converted primary

observation types of each of said plurality of field data<u>;</u>

32   <u>and</u>

<u>wherein said collecting of field data further</u>

34   <u>comprises:</u>

<u>capturing free speech stating verbal observations</u>

36   <u>containing voice data;</u>

<u>capturing location data contemporaneously with each of</u>

38   <u>said verbal observations;</u>

<u>time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a</u>

40   <u>raw verbal observation; and</u>

<u>time-stamping said captured location data</u>.